



# THE HAYDON NEWS

JUNE  
2001

Published by The Friends Of Haydon Bridge

## Editorial

Welcome.

I say welcome because as I meet with folk the general impression I get is that the *Haydon News* is looked forward to - some even suggesting that it makes better reading than the 'other' local paper! Maybe this has something to do with the content.

Leaving aside the advertisements the content does vary from month to month. Being a relative newcomer to the Parish I greatly enjoy reading about the history and the characters of Haydon Bridge from Dennis' notes. And through his notes, other contributors join in. This is all good stuff, but, as one contributor this month points out, wouldn't it be nice to also have more of what is going on NOW.

Contributions appear from various groups / clubs (Dance, Bowls, W.I. etc) but try as we may, some groups seem reluctant to contribute. No matter how small or select a group or club may be, I am sure they will have something worth reporting. Or perhaps they don't mind being overlooked or bypassed!

Now there's a word to conjure with! Bypass. Not necessarily just relating to A road but also to do with the manner in which local issues are dealt with by 'outsiders' who seem to think that they know what is best for the village.

Take Church Street and the Old Bridge for example. We are all aware of what is going on - or not as the case may be. It could almost be said that what WE - the village - thought we'd agreed on - these outsiders take a different view.

Some questions which need answers include; will the style of the lamps on Church Street match those on the Old Bridge? Will there be a consistent style? Are the pavements to be completed (as was agreed) or not? And if not, why not?

I just get the feeling that the Authorities (whoever they are) seem to have the idea that Haydon Bridge can be pushed around. Is this what we want?

Inside this issue on page 8 there is another plea for people to help with the Village Appraisal. About half-a dozen people have indicated interest and a meeting has been arranged for **WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> July** at 7.00pm in the Community Centre. This is an OPEN meeting so please do come along. It is down to us to take Haydon Bridge forward in the way we want and to give our views on topical issues including attracting tourism to the area and perhaps even having a say on how housing should be assessed. Witness the Inner Haugh controversy.

A lot is going on in the village and its environs. Mostly for the good. Appreciating that the *Haydon News* only appears every month for ten months and at the end of the month at that, advertising of forthcoming events and the like may be seen as being difficult or inappropriate. But isn't it worth giving it a chance to let the wider audience know what is going on. Through the *Haydon News* we have a very good link via Alistair Burrowes with the *Hexham Courant* as well as broadcasting on the WEB. [ Perhaps Harold Humble will become a famous poet, who knows ]

There must be concerns out there which people want to air. Nom-de-plumes can always be used to preserve identity if required. Public participation at Parish Council meetings rarely exceeds 4 or 5 yet important issues are discussed and the notes which I put together cannot fully illustrate what goes on.

Are you happy with things as they are, or how they are developing? Perhaps you are not alone in your views. Why not raise them in the *Haydon News*?

Here's to next month's issue which will be coming out at the end of July.

**Richard A D Snowden (Editor)**

*Notes from the Parish Council Meeting held at the Community Centre (Haydon Bridge)  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2001 at 7.30pm.*

**Present throughout were:** 8 Councillors (apologies from 2), the Parish Clerk, 'new' County Councillor and 4 members of the Public. Representatives from the Youth Club were briefly present.

Proceedings began with an apology. A presentation by the "2 Castles Housing Association" which was due to take place had to be postponed until a later date.

**1. Representatives from the Youth Club** which now has the room upstairs in the Community Centre offered their thanks to the Parish Council for paying the rent. The club was going fine having a Pool table, Coffee Bar, CD

player, TV/Video set and a couple of couches. A very comfortable set-up enjoyed by about a dozen folk.

**2. Ongoing saga of the Dog Bins.** Any progress? The Clerk responded by saying that correspondence had been received giving some answers. To be dealt with later in the meeting.

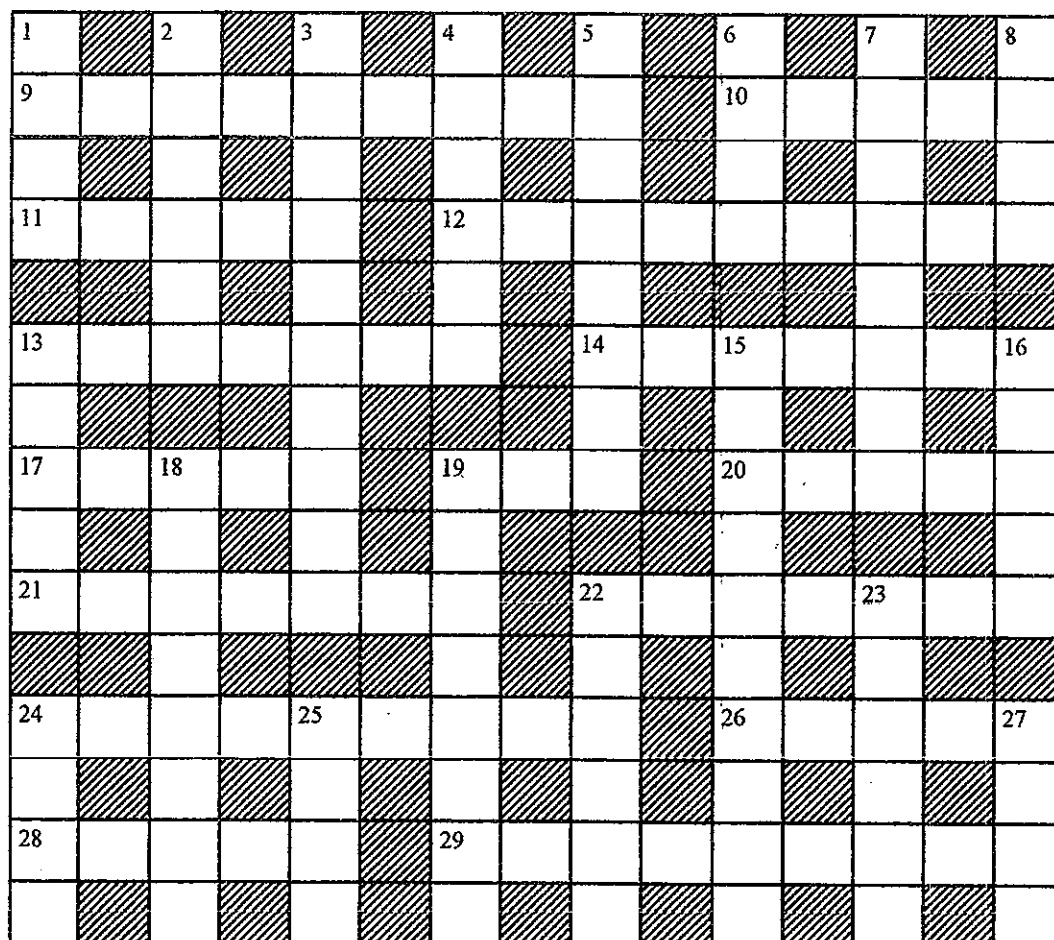
**3. Lamps on the Old Bridge.** Were they permanent or temporary? Cllr. Philp indicated that much needed to be done with regard to these as placings and style were not satisfactory.

*(Continued on page 11)*

# The £10 Crossword

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....



Entries to be received by the Editor on or before **MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

**Best of luck**

Please hand in your entry to any of the businesses indicated at the top of

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or by post to: The Editor, Wheelsteads, Woodhall Mill, Haydon Bridge,

NE47 6AS

## ACROSS

9. Construct answer from the initial letters of 2d, 4d 5d, 8d, 11ac, 12ac, 19d, 25d, 26d. (3,6 or 9)
10. Devotion to God (5)
11. 9 in 26 (5)
12. Garden canine (5)
13. Read us fiction to feel confident (7)
14. Snake, highway, Her Majesty, someone living away (7)
17. (see 19)
- 19, 17, 26. Australian 9 (3,5,5)
20. Ryan's stories (5)
21. Part of batik process (4,3)
22. Indicates (7)
24. Crosses 8 with altitude (4,5)
26. (see 19)
28. Type of wheat (5)
29. Tent price prevents further action (9)

## DOWN

1. Precedes 6 in stories (4)
2. According to song there were two of them staying in high class accommodation (6)
3. Part of the Miners' Gala (6,4)
4. Net tadpole, in part, when present (6)
5. Blew cool in strings section (5,3)
6. Comes after 9
7. Confused, be film director Billy (8)
8. Follows 6 (4)
13. State of NE India (5)
15. Pose question in radio programme? (3,7)
16. Corrodes (5)
18. One of Cinder's sisters? (4,4)
19. There were 6 of these in biblical dance (4,4)
22. Get larger (6)
23. Bank worker (6)
24. Part of game or game watching (4)
25. 9ac under water (4)
27. In which seeds may be planted (4)

## THE PARTING OF LOVE

My dearest heart what painest thou,  
This dreadful strain set on my brow,  
A million years it seems to meeth,  
No word hath penned thee to my grief,  
Forgiveness though my breast doth part,  
My soul hath mourned the death my heart.

Oh' fair heart why doth thee cry,  
This love that takest thee within, hath died,  
This mountain thou hast now to climb,  
Bears heavy on this soul of mine.

Fear not, tis but the wind that blows within thee cold,  
Those tears of love that streak your face so bold,  
Thy love, torn by this icy claw,  
Create the i'chor from the Gods will draw.

Do not weep dear heart of mine this day,  
My body sapped of strength shall carry thee away,  
Tis not the end of life we know,  
This twisted pain within my body flow.

Oh' tangled web mine heart entwine,  
Lay bare my troubled soul,  
And yet my breast shall burst this way,  
As I shall wait, those dogs shall drool.

What lies ahead it matters not,  
Those dogs will feed upon my flesh,  
While in my breast my heart shall rot,  
And bolts of lightning from the the skys  
Will tear the very tears from within mine eyes  
It leaves so little to delight, as I be damned this very night.

"But like all true loves"

'Tis far better to have loved and lost,  
To savour the "moment" and not the "cost"  
Life for thee was but a dream  
Good bye my heart, farewell my "Queen"

## THE BEAUTY OF LOVE

Tall trees all around me, a river flowing by,  
A flask of wine, a little bread, love and a starlit sky,  
Moonbeams on the river dressed in a silver cloak,  
A kiss or two, a drink of wine, and bread, 'neath a tree of oak.

A whisper of wind, a fragrant smell of flowers from the trees above,  
My heart encased by a warm embrace, the breath of eternal love,  
What more in life could a soul ever want, than the touch of a tender heart,  
The cloak of love, from the heavens above and souls that will never part.

Moonbeams caressing the heavens encircled by twinkling stars,  
Enriched by a cloak of black velvet and such beauty that comes from afar,  
But here in my breast, this heart you caress would out-shine all eternal bliss,  
With you in my arms, all heavenly charms would be lost, in on little kiss.

*These two poems were submitted by Harold Humble who used to live in the village but now lives in Australia.*

*Kindly passed on to the Editor by the Rumney family.*

## A VISIT TO HAYDON BRIDGE METHODIST FLOWER FESTIVAL

It was on a glorious sunny June afternoon that I ventured down to the Methodist Church in Haydon Bridge. I was on a mission, to view the Flower Festival being staged there, and enjoy the peace and tranquility of God's house. My good friend and neighbour, Linda Thomas had been kind enough to drive me to the village, and had volunteered to be my guide for the afternoon, showing me around the festival and explaining how each individual floral exhibit represented a part of church life.

Haydon Bridge Flower Festival is a celebration of gratefulness, a way of saying thank you for the new Methodist Church building we have in the village today. All money raised in the festival is to be shared between the village and farming charities.

As I stepped inside the Church I imagined I found myself inside an enchanted woodland grotto with nature's treasures hiding within. I even espied a tiny bird's nest complete with eggs, nestling amongst the flowers and foliage.

As I moved on further into the main part of the Church I breathed in the heady scents from the abundance of flowers everywhere, and gazed around me with awe. It seemed as if every inch of the Church was bathed in a sea of colour and loveliness. From the most delicate pastel shades to the

rich and vibrant blockbusters, the effects were truly stunning.

The magnificent stained glass windows provided a perfect backdrop for the pedestal displays, and I strolled around the room marvelling at the artistry, and originality, of each individual exhibit. With so much spectacle and drama for me to feast my eyes upon I could only wonder at the inspiration, and hours of toil, spent designing and arranging each individual floral creation.

Once around the Church was just not enough to take in the special personal touches and hidden delights, missed by the naked eye on the first appraisal.

When we finally sat down for a cup of coffee and delicious home made fare I reflected on how much I had enjoyed the afternoon. Everyone involved in the whole of the festival needed to be congratulated on their sheer hard work and dedication in making it such a resounding success. Forget grand Churches and Cathedrals in big towns and cities, we can feel proud to have such an abundance of talent right here on our own doorstep.

I left for home feeling uplifted and grateful for having experienced a truly magical event.

**Sylvia Mitchell**

## HISTORICAL NOTES OF HAYDON BRIDGE – by Dennis Telford

Mr Harry Veitch lived in our village sixty years ago with his parents, brothers and sisters. Given that the function of my column in the *Haydon News* is to renew old acquaintances and to link erstwhile Haydonians with our/their Parish, I was very pleased that Mr Veitch made contact with me last month. It is always a

delight to hear from previous residents. Almost without exception I find them enthusiastic and positive and their reminiscences are so valuable in building an historical perspective of the place in which we live.

Mr Veitch lives in Essex and tells me that it was through a contact with Bobby Todd that he received his first

issue of the *Haydon News* two or three years ago. He now receives a regular copy and his recent letter to me makes wonderful reading.

With Harry's permission I am providing an edited version below for this month's 'Notes'

Brentwood, Essex

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2001

Dear Dennis

.....Some issues of the *Haydon News* bring up names and places which revive memories of long ago and you have been doing just that lately, I'm pleased to say.

You have covered most age groups or generations including those who were adults when I was still at school, my generation and of course following generations. I can put a face to most of the names mentioned in "Buy Broom Buzzems" (see May edition of the *Haydon News*).

I have a mental list of so many residents who through their various trades and professions were the backbone of the village. I have no trouble recalling the names and faces of lads and girls in my class, people who have left their mark but sadly no longer with us. Lloyd, Ozzie, Charlie and Eddie being only a few of my school friends.

We moved to Haydon Bridge in the back end of 1920 to 29 John Martin Street, to a house my Grandfather, Robert Saint, owned. I remember the move. The Low Hall bridge as it is known over Geeswood Burn was hump backed in that year but in the following year it was replaced by a 'flat' one.

I would need several pages if I covered my memories as a boy in the village. It would be your fault for submitting "Buy Broom Buzzems"

I think Tom Snowball should have a mention, our neighbour. Round about 1930 Tom replaced his rather ancient BSA motor cycle and sidecar with a new BSA 3-wheeler, a splendid looking job. It had the single wheel at the front with the main body between the two rear wheels so that driver and passenger could sit side-by-side. I never saw another one like it.

My sister remembers attending Mrs Snowball's in the early 30's preparing for concerts and the like and also remembers Doreen Brown.

I could keep on about the place I still call MY village. One little snippet. On hot days when the back door to your Granda's workshop was open, I used to stand and watch them working at their trade, carts of course, and

anything agricultural. After all it was the 20's. The lane running down to the waterside was known as Telford's Lane – has it changed?

It's more than likely there won't be many people around who remember one of the village carters – Joe Irving who lived up Ratcliffe Road I think. Anyway, he delivered our coal in the 20's, loose of course, which he'd loaded at the coal cells. Ten shillings for 10 cwt plus one shilling for delivery. I recall Edwin Bowman getting the job as Weighbridge Clerk which I thought was marvellous.

The job situation for school leavers was grim and you were no better off if you went to Hexham Grammar. I remember Eddie Jackson leaving at sixteen years old and finishing up in a Hexham garage which I thought didn't fit in with his education.

This "memory man" remembers the General Strike and remembers being sent to the signal cabin at the station to ask a man on duty, sometimes Bobby Todd's father, to 'phone the engine sheds at Blaydon to see if there was any work for my father, an engine driver.

The job situation was so bad that I took the plunge in October 1935, with the pressure on, to take a one-way ticket to London. I was still in my teens and that was that. So, except for just over six years in the Army, my life has been spent down here.

John Martin wasn't the only one to spread his wings! But that's the only comparison I can claim.

However, Dennis, when I 'phoned you I had something else in my mind. The memory you sparked when you mentioned another village lad a year or so younger than me who brought me great pleasure way back in 1944. Yes!! The War and this memory which has remained undimmed all these years.

My Company had not been on Italian soil very long, early in '44. We'd pulled into the side of the road for a break and at the same time a column of servicemen, a common sight, was marching past. I was not even looking at them when I became aware that one of the men had broken away from the column and was heading for me. It was Dan Liddle!

A touching moment. I don't remember what was said and I still wonder to this day how he managed to pick me out,

*although at that time I was standing on my own. Anyway, my last sight of him was his race to catch up with his Unit.*

*About the same time I received a cablegram from home with the news that my brother Joe, a close friend of Dan's, had been killed in action during the Allies' attempt to cross the River Sangro. A year elapsed before I was given leave to visit his grave.*

*I know for a fact that Dan and I had had little contact from my leaving school in 1930, so he'd obviously kept a picture of me in his mind. Truly amazing!*

*I'm going to call a halt now Dennis and as I do names and faces from my Haydon Bridge past flash across my mind. I'm very lucky to have these memories.*

*Sincerely*

**Harry Veitch**

[ And we are very lucky that Harry is able to recall these wonderful memories and is willing to share them with us! ]

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Mr Veitch's ancestors had a wool mill at Chollerton and a view of the mill was carved into a unique headstone to his Great Grandfather, John Saint, who died in 1827. This headstone can still be seen in St. Giles' Churchyard.

Alistair Burrowes provides more information and a photograph in the 2001 February/March edition of "The North-umbrian" magazine. Alistair's articles are well worth reading, if you don't already do so!

My own first recollection of Tom Snowball's vehicular transport was of a small car. I think it was probably an Austin 7 or maybe a Singer. I'm sure that someone will remember it and let me know, Oh! and was it black or grey?

Tom kept the car in a wooden garage down the waterside on the south side of the river. As a very small child this garage was like a treasure trove to me. Every possible joint, fitting, tool or length of pipe required by a plumber or water engineer was packed in immaculate order around the sides. Maurice Armstrong tells me that Tom had to get out of the car and push it into the garage as there just wasn't room to open the doors once it was inside. We're not sure how he got it out again!

The lane running down to the waterside and officially designated for "coals in and ashes out" is still Telford's Lane and my Grandad's and Father's workshop with its 'backdoor' onto the waterside remains to this day. Not surrounded now, as it was up until the late 1950's by bogies, carts, cartwheels and the like but the craftsman's tradition is still maintained there through Basil Young's joinery activities.

One of the biggest changes to this part of the waterside over the years is the amount of land that has been lost to the River Tyne as its course has changed and its width increased. In days gone by you could walk right up past the 'Scotch Arms' and 'Haydon Hotel' on a narrow river bank. There is no doubt that without the constant tipping over the years of garden waste to support the bankside the 'back door', its connected workshop and the main sewer which runs alongside it would have disappeared long ago.

Sadly, Bobby Todd passed away on 3<sup>rd</sup> March this year and a crowded Methodist Chapel was testimony to his popularity in Haydon Bridge. Bobby's father James, mentioned in Mr Veitch's letter, spent his working life employed by the North East Railway Company until he retired in July 1941.

James Todd started work on the railway line as a lamp cleaner and for thirty-one years before his retirement, he had been in the signal cabin at Haydon Bridge. To mark his retirement he was presented with an inscribed walking stick and a fountain pen. Mrs Todd received an umbrella. The gifts were presented by the Station Master, Mr F. M. Lawson. Mr Todd had served under eight Station Masters and until his retirement, a member of the Todd family, including Bobby's Great Grandfather, had been a signalman at Haydon Bridge ever since the opening of the railway.

Dan Liddle returned home from the RAF in 1946 and is fondly remembered by his contemporaries and those of us with whom he shared his life through the Methodist Chapel and its Sunday School, until his premature death in 1968.

Dan's widow, Eileen, still lives with us in our village of course and continues the Christian Fellowship they both shared, while Dan's memory lives on through their children and grandchildren.

I will end this month's 'Notes' with another one of life's intriguing coincidences, as recalled by Eileen.

Dan, while driving in Italy, saw a sign indicating Allied War Graves and decided to stop and pay his respects to his fallen colleagues.

Their last resting place turned out to be the Sangro War Cemetery, and one of the graves Dan came across was that of Joe Veitch. His young friend at Haydon Bridge and our correspondent Harry Veitch's brother!!

**Dennis Telford**



# Barnardo's

NORTH EAST

GIVING CHILDREN BACK THEIR FUTURE

New Families (NE) Project

Orchard House

Fenwick Terrace

Jesmond

Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2JQ

Telephone Direct Line 0191 240 4814

Reception 0191 240 4800

Fax 0191 240 1801

The Editor – *Haydon News*Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2001

Dear Sir

## TOGETHER WE CAN GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A CHANCE

Barnardo's New Families, through a new Outreach Programme is seeking to find families for children in Northumberland – these families will be as varied as the children.

This new project is aiming to raise awareness within the community of the need for adoptive and foster parents. The project will do this by concentrating its efforts within specific geographical areas, targeting as many opportunities for poster display; leaflet distribution; display stands; meeting with individuals, groups and organisations who wish to find out more and who may be able to contribute to raising awareness within their community.

## ARE YOU ABLE TO SUPPORT THIS WORK?

Children like us need families like you.

Did you know that there are 10,000 children in the UK waiting to be adopted or fostered long-term?

Did you know that only 5% of children available for adoption are babies and that 95% of people coming forward for adoption want a baby?

Pretty tough odds if you are a child or a set of siblings looking for a loving home!!

Barnardo's – New Families project encourages enquiries and applications

from families of all religions, races and cultural backgrounds. You may be married, single, living with a partner, or living with a same-sex partner; employed or unemployed; own or rent your home; be disabled yourself; and you may or may not have your own children. Our priority is to find the right family for the child, and meet their needs.

Barnardo's – New Families is a specialist adoption and fostering project whose purpose is to help children find a permanent substitute family in the North East.

- \* Children with emotional and behavioural difficulties need consistent care and time to settle and adjust to the idea of permanence in their family life.
- \* Children who are disabled need carers who can provide a loving and secure home, and can help that child develop a positive self-identity and reach their individual potential.
- \* Black children need Black carers who are able to reflect their own race and culture and so understand their needs and help them to overcome the prejudice that they are likely to encounter.
- \* Siblings need the opportunity to stay together as a family group, each child needs to be treated individually and helped to develop positive relationships with their siblings.

Adopting or fostering a child can be hard work but Barnardo's – New Families project will provide you with full training and support throughout the entire process of assessment and beyond. Previous carers claim it's the best thing they have ever done and can be extremely rewarding.

If you would like to make a difference we would be happy to help you find out more about adoption and fostering, please phone our friendly team or write to us at the address above.

With best wishes

*Jo Turner*

*Outreach/Development Worker*

## VILLAGE APPRAISAL

### **WILL YOU HELP US?**

### **DO YOU CARE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF YOUR VILLAGE?**

We need a group of people to present their views and opinions in order to get a true cross-sectional picture of Haydon Bridge and help produce a new Appraisal Document.

Are *YOU* prepared to attend meetings, voice concerns and look to the future?

If you would be prepared to assist us (the Parish Council), contact either of the persons below and we will let you know when and where meetings will take place.

**Eileen Charlton (Councillor)**

01 434 684 505

**Susan Batey (Parish Council Clerk)**

01 434 684 323

**MANY THANKS**



## SUMMER FAIR

**SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**10.00am – 12 noon**

**Something for everyone  
including Grand Raffle,  
Balloon Race, Tea & Scones  
& Ice Cream**

**All proceeds will go towards  
the new computer suite  
in school.**

15<sup>th</sup> June 2001

The Editor  
*Haydon News*

Dear Sir

In the past few issues of the *Haydon News*, a number of articles have induced reminiscing. The village shops with their owner-characters and the 1<sup>st</sup> Haydon Bridge Scout troop, being most prominent.

Recently I was walking near Pooley Bridge and crossed farmland where the Scout troop once spent a summer camp which set me thinking of my first camp at Talkin Tarn in 1949. Memories of transport from John Wilson's home at Parkstile, with scouts perched on top of the 'gear' in Harry Watson's lorry and remembering the popular song of that summer – "Ghost Riders in the Sky" which was blaring out from a 'jumble sale' battery radio.

In the early 1950's, a patrol of Haydon Bridge Scouts won the local competition in scouting skills at Dilston Camp Site with each member of the patrol being presented with a HAND AXE!

It would be nice to read more about Haydon Bridge history, but I understand readers need as much information about the present and future in the publication too.

I appreciate some books about Haydon Bridge have been published by Mr L. C. Coombes. However, written records of other village events and activities could form the basis of future *Haydon News* articles, should their existence be divulged.

The records and artifacts of *HAYDON BRIDGE FLOWER SHOW* or *HAYDON BRIDGE SILVER BAND* may reveal hitherto unknown interesting facts about the village and its inhabitants.

Finally, may I indulge in sharing an abiding memory of *HAYDON BRIDGE CINEMA*.

As the first feature drew to a close, a light came on in a room, at the end of the passage to the right of the

screen, thus affecting the quality of the picture being displayed. This light was a signal for the stampede to begin, first from the six penny (6d) benches followed, in a more sedate manner, by those in the 9d and 1/6d seats.

It was ice cream time – ah! Happy days.

Yours aye

**Alan Telford**

45 Pinecroft, Kingstown  
Carlisle, Cumbria, CA3 0DB

### DANCE CLUB NEWS

By the time this is published Iris will be back home after five weeks visiting relatives.

Also at the moment I am waiting delivery of the first part of the new audio system costing £200. Second part expected soon.

Hopefully all will be working fine before Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July when our friends from Throckley will be paying us a visit.

Members, please note the date.

Our numbers still increase with the odd ones coming from Hexham

Three birthdays this month.

They are Doreen, Ron and Dora.

Olive and Ray are the proud Great Grandparents of twins born recently. Congratulations to you both and, of course to the parents.

Our sympathies go to Audrey who lost a sister recently, Evelyn with a broken ankle. Evelyn from Alston who has not been well of late.

**Jim Biggs**

### ROCKS – a Meaning for Life

A philosophy professor stood before his class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly he picked up a large empty jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks, rocks about 2" in diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full? They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The students laughed.

The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. "Now" said the professor, "I want you to recognise that this is your life. The rocks are the important things – your family, your partner, your health, your children – things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full"

"The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else. The small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you"

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness"

"Play with your children. Take time to get medical check-ups. Take your partner out dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix things. Take care of the rocks first – the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand"

*But then ...*

A student took the jar which the other students and the professor

*(Continued on page 12)*



Story from Hexham Courant—29 June 2001—Helen

## JOHN MARTIN 'did not paint village scene'

The 150-year-old mystery surrounding the authenticity of a painting attributed to a 19th century Haydon Bridge artist is close to being solved, thanks to Tynedale councillor Stan Mitchell.

John Martin (1789-1854) became the most popular British artist of his age, achieving public acclaim throughout Europe. Born and bred in Haydon Bridge, his rural upbringing was later reflected in the grandiose biblical themes and romantic literary characters of his paintings.

However, one painting which was attributed to him has been the subject of much discussion between art critics and academics. An oil painting entitled Haydon Bridge, it features a view of the South Tyne valley and the original Shaftoe Schools, the schoolmaster's house and the almshouses in Haydon Bridge.

Mr Mitchell, who lives in the village, first saw it as a 14-year-old at an exhibition of John Martin's work at Newcastle's Laing Art Gallery in 1951. His interest was rekindled two years ago by a discussion with another local resident and, Sherlock Holmes-style, he set off on the trail.

"I visited the Laing, which took up ownership of the painting in 1955," he said. "The first thing which aroused my suspicions was the almshouses. They were only started in 1804 and not completed until 1810, but John Martin left for London in 1806. "I also observed that the line of trees in the painting follow the route of the railway line. It is not a natural terrain and I believe the trees were painted in to disguise the presence of the railway, which was extended to Haydon Bridge in 1838."

It was two other features of the painting which led him towards solving the final mystery "if John Martin didn't paint Haydon Bridge, who did?"

Mr Mitchell believes that the artist left valuable clues. One of two farmhouses, which can be seen in the distance to the right of the painting, was occupied at the time by the Dickinson family. Another clue is the two shepherds deep in discussion in the foreground.

"Here, several connections come together," he said. "A close-up, using computer technology, of the shepherd figures reveals one of them has hideous features. He has a damaged right eye and a deep scar on the right side of his face.

"Sir John Tenniel, a famous book illustrator and political cartoonist at the time, was blinded in one eye and suffered facial scarring during a fencing bout with his father. I believe the shepherd characters are actually Sir John and his father. This helps date the picture to some time after 1840, when the accident happened."

To summarise Mr Mitchell's conclusions is to fail to do justice to two years of intermittent, but painstaking, research. His study of local families, links through marriage and the connections revealed in wills and conveyances, produced a labyrinthine network of relationships. He said: "The person who was the common link was a man called Frederick Arnaud Tilt. He was friends with John Martin and the Tenniels, and he was executor of a will written in 1862 for one Jane Reed of Haydon Bridge, who had a connection through marriage with the Dickinson family of Hill House.

"Also, another document written at about the same time shows that there were links between Tilt and William Walton senior, a successful businessman and banker from Haydon Bridge. "It was Walton's son, in 1923, who owned the painting and who declared that it was by John Martin. I believe that Frederick Tilt was the real artist."

Mr Mitchell hopes to confirm his findings with the help of staff at the Laing, but in the meantime Haydon Bridge will go on display at the art gallery in July.

## Note from Mitch

Hi folks the Courant story to the left was derived from an interview with reporter Helen Penman on Wednesday 27th June 2000. Of necessity she had to limit the story to space available—I think she has made a good job. The painting reproduction has come out wonderfully well. I offer my thanks to the Heham Courant for their splendid efforts.

There is a lot more to the story than you read. John Baptist Tenniel was the son of John Baptist Tenniel, a Huegenot who fled to this country. John the elder also had a daughter who married John Martin's son Leopold Charles.

The Artist Frederick Arnaud Clarke Tilt was probably related to Charles Tilt the printer who issued the second edition of "Milton's Paradise Lost", in 1835 using the metzotints made by Martin for the 1st Edition printed in 1827, by Samuel Prowett.

The Martin's were close neighbours of the Tenniels in London.

Frederick Arnaud Clarke Tilt lived in Walton Hill in London as did the grand daughter of the lady who benefited from the Haydon Bridge will.

In due course I will provide you with the final conclusions in this fascinating story.

I thank the Laing Art Gallery for being so helpful and co-operative during the past two years and especially for their permission to use the painting.

Also a special thanks to all of those people who have loaned me Wills, Indentures and Conveyances:

Meanwhile if anyone is interested in helping me research other areas for Haydon Bridge Archive 2000 please give me a ring on; 01434—684035.

Bye for now

Mitch

Alias Stan Mitchell  
High Brindles  
Heugh House Lane  
Haydon Bridge  
NE47 6HJ

(Continued from page 3)

**4. Wheelie bins.** Contact the helpline if there are any problems ( 01 434 652 418 ). One resident had a wheelie bin delivered without wheels! These wheelie bins are for the village only. Outlying areas will join the scheme later.

**5. Pavements in Church Street.** Confusion reigns supreme. Workers think that they are finished and will return at the end of the year. Cllr. Philp disagrees saying that funding is in place for the jobs specified to be done.

**6. On the more positive side** – the trees are looking nice now having been worked on.

With regard to the Church Street and Old Bridge project to regenerate the area, Cllr. Parkin was appalled at the apparent lack of any co-ordination. Should not the Architect behind the scheme not see it through to completion? Cllr Philp would appear to be taking a lot of flak over this project but the problems lie with the contractors and with County. For example, work on the Old Bridge is being put back because of the Foot & Mouth crisis! Why? Because County wants the workers on the F&M sites! Cllr Philp cannot understand this, because of the forward planning agreed. She suggests that a very strong letter be written to County informing them of our discontent over the whole saga. It seems that the village is being overlooked again.

**Minutes of the previous meeting were deemed accurate.**

**Matters Arising:** Cllr. Philp said that a notice in the station, informing the public of the telephone and its use should a query arise over the punctuality of a train arise, was now ready only waiting for it to be laminated.

**Village Appraisal:** This must get underway very soon because there has to be a follow-up review carried out in three months time! So far about half-a-dozen people have expressed interest in being part of the group. Need more. See page 8 for more details and a first meeting has been scheduled for the evening of **WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JULY** in the Community Centre starting at 7.00pm. This will be an OPEN meeting for everyone interested.

**Foot & Mouth:** Testing on at least nine properties are awaited so 'D' notices cannot be lifted.

**Spa Well subsidence crack:** No further contact with the concerned agencies yet.

**Fencing by the 'Disabled' bungalow:** It was reported that the bushes have been cut back but that the fence has been repaired.

**Tynedale Council Minutes:** Nothing to report but maybe a report had been received regarding the development at the Inner Haugh? A road widening scheme which will incorporate straightening and re-alignment has been submitted. All objections to the scheme would seem to have been resolved. Now there will be easier access on to the A69 but a 'race track' run into the village! Surely the 30 mph zone will be extended along with all the necessary signage. A copy of the recent plans will be published in July's edition of the *Haydon News*.

The development at Middle Lipwood is not now going ahead.

**John Martin Project:** Perhaps the Parish Council might endorse the work currently underway with the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge' Cllr Mitchell indicated that there was an excellent article in the current '*Hexham Courant*'. (see also page 10 in this issue)

**Traffic Restriction at Ridley Hall:** No traffic will be able to use the Crowhall – Greentree road (C287) from 10.00 pm on Saturdays until 8.00 am on Sundays starting 7<sup>th</sup> July and lasting until 29<sup>th</sup> July. Work is to be carried out on the bridge over this road which carries the railway near Ridley Hall. Diversions will be in place. There will be NO alternative route for vehicles over 3 tonnes.

**Highways/Bypass:** No reply from the Office as yet. Cllr Charlton suggested that the project to get a group together to take forward planning for tourism was set to go ahead.

**Strother Close:** Road gutters are in a deplorable state with weeds. Need the 'wire brush' treatment from the Council.

**Planning Applications:** Rear porch at 57 Ratcliffe Road and Greenhouse at Lipwood Hall. Both deemed OK.

**Correspondence:** Quite a lot had been received. Briefly these included; Integrated Transport Plan; Countryside Agencies dealing with small communities; The Environment Act 1995 concerning contaminated land; West Northumberland Primary Care Group; Tynedale Council Partnership.

**Dog Bins:** Answers to the query raised earlier. The collector of the waste has indicated that the bins were not full as was reported!! Perhaps the collection chute had become blocked thereby giving the impression that the bin was full. This was greeted with some disbelief! However, the PC has agreed to buy another bin. Also it was suggested that the First School should have a proper sign fixed to the Field Gate warning against Dog Fouling.

**Village Projects:** The Millennium Tree will be well protected thanks to Mr Westall who has made a really wonderful fence to surround it. Cllr Garrow wondered whether a First School pupil could come to the Church Yard before the end of term to plant the tree. A plaque to be provided also?

**Appraisal:** Questionnaire will be needed.

**AOB.** Cllr Mitchell raised the issue of a children's play park for the south of the river. He suggested an area adjacent to the Showfield houses. The PC has authorised the Chairman to enter into negotiations with the owner of the land.

Cllr Charlton thought that thanks should be proffered to the person who has done a good job on the Post Box.

Cllr Gilhespy raised concerns over the way in which the birds are having a field day with the litter bins. Are there any other alternative styles?

Cllr Parkin queried when will the Brown Signs indicating the facilities available in the village be arriving. They are part and parcel of the Tourism Project mentioned earlier.

**RADS**

**'THE FRIENDS OF HAYDON BRIDGE'****Dates and Times of Meetings**

Committee Meetings are held at 8.00pm on the **TUESDAY** following the fourth **THURSDAY** of each month.

**Venue:** The Community Centre, Haydon Bridge

**Public Participation**

Our invitation to members of the public to participate continues, but it must be remembered these are the monthly meetings of a constitutionally-based committee which are run on formal business lines (agenda, minutes, reports, etc). For this reason, public participation will in future be restricted to a maximum of the first 30 minutes of every meeting only. Items for discussion must be notified in writing to the Chair one week in advance of the meeting so that Committee members can be advised, enabling worthwhile discussion to take place. The Chair will then advise the person concerned of the right to attend.

*After the allotted time* we ask that you leave the meeting so that the Committee can continue with their formal agenda.

**Charles Thomas**, Chairman.

**Tynedale Citizens Advice Bureau**

We hold a free, confidential, independent advice and information session at:

**The Health Centre, Haydon Bridge**  
on Monday afternoons  
from 2.00pm until 4.00pm.

We can give you advice and information on:

Social Security Benefits	Money Problems
Consumer Rights	Problems at work
Relationship issues	Housing
Employment	Legal Proceedings

And much more .....try us!

We can help you fill in forms, draft letters, negotiate by telephone or letter, and prepare Social Security reviews or appeals.

Ring the Health Centre ( **01 434 684 216** ) to make an appointment or, if required, to arrange for a home visit.

**MUSIC and MOVEMENT**

Calling all Mums! Did you know that there is a Music and Movement group running in Haydon Bridge?

We meet at the Methodist Church on Friday afternoons ( 1.10pm and 1.50pm ) during term time.

This is a fun get-together for Mums and pre-school children alike which involves singing, instrument playing and movement with coffee and orange juice served afterwards.

Please contact **Susie Steven** on:

**01 434 674 260** for further details.

*( Please note change of telephone number )*

**ACHES and PAINS?**

Do you or your pet suffer from aches or pains?

Why not wear a **MAGNETIC** product?

With a money back guarantee, it must be worth a try.

For more information contact:

**Iris Stafford** Four Winds  
Heugh House Lane  
Haydon Bridge  
NE47 6ND

Telephone / Fax: **01 434 688 014**



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*(Continued from page 9)*

agreed was full and proceeded to pour in his drink.

Of course, this drink filled the remaining spaces within the jar making the jar truly full.

The moral of this tale is:- *no matter how full your life is, there is always room for a drink!*

**RADS**

**CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION**

A grand sum of **£980** was raised.

Very many thanks to all those who gave and everyone who helped with the collection.

**Kathleen Armstrong**

**HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE with HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL**

Please help us to provide the right activities in your area by taking the time to complete this form.

The more information you can give us the better.

1. What sort of activities would you like to see available? (please circle those of interest)  
(e.g. Conversational language; crafts; cookery; conservational/environmental; hobbies; computing;  
Rural skills; Internet & E-mail; computerised accounts; brushing up English & Maths; Dance & sports)  
Other.
2. Would you like to gain a qualification at the end of the activity? (please circle) YES NO
3. Would you prefer daytime / evening / weekend / residential activities? (please circle)  
Which day or evening would you prefer? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How far would you be willing to travel to your preferred activity? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Please give the number of people in your household in the age ranges below who would be interested in the above activities.  
Up to 11 years \_\_\_\_\_ 11 – 16 years \_\_\_\_\_ 16 – 21 years \_\_\_\_\_ 21 – 60 years \_\_\_\_\_ Over 60 years \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are there any comments you would like to make?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. We hope that with this information we will be able to provide the activities you want, when and where you want them.

Please return the completed form to either:

Lesley Robson, Haydon Bridge Community High School, Haydon Bridge, NE47 6LR or The Editor, *Haydon News*.

**VILLAGE IN BLOOM COMPETITION**

This will take place during the months of June to August and is open to all residents (without front gardens) living on the main streets of the village i.e. Ratcliffe Road, Church Street, John Martin Street and Shaftoe Street.

**Certificates of Merit** will also be awarded.

The first round of judging is scheduled for the third week in June with a final viewing six weeks later, weather permitting.

There are **two categories** of judging.

5 containers and under. 6 containers and over.

Happy planting and good luck.

**Prizes in each category** are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> – £20; 2<sup>nd</sup> – £15; 3<sup>rd</sup> – £10

*The Friends of Haydon Bridge.*

**PLEASE HELP SUPPORT  
'THE FRIENDS OF HAYDON BRIDGE'**

**MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2001**

Please find enclosed subscription of ..... to 'The Friends of Haydon Bridge'

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Minimum donation £1.20. Larger donations most welcome.

Please make cheques payable to: 'The Friends of Haydon Bridge'.

You may leave your envelopes in Marsh's or John Clarkes Newsagents. Or, you can post them to:

**The Treasurer, FOHB, High Brindles, Hough House Lane, Haydon Bridge, NE47 6HJ**

**Pierre Lang  
Jewellery**

**Weekenders  
Ladies Clothes**

**Gill Valentine**

**River House**

Telephone: 01 434 688 199 or 01 434 688 999

Visit me or I'll come to your home

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**Phone: Liz Jukes on 688 851**

## A.D.A.P.T.

**Action by Differently Abled People in Tynedale**

Are you retired or semi-retired?

Why not put some of your spare time into driving for

**A.D.A.P.T.'s**

Community Transport Scheme.

It's a chance to meet people and get involved  
in the community.

We provide on-going support and all expenses are paid.

**ALL DRIVERS MUST BE OVER 25**

**AND HOLD A FULL**

**LICENCE FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS.**

For more information phone Bob or Eyra on:

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**Fax: 01 434 600 599**

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**For appointments and enquiries.  
Telephone: 01 434 608 612**

### THE MEETING PLACE

AT

**THE METHODIST CHURCH**

Come and Join your friends for

Coffee and Refreshments on

**Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am - 12 noon**

FAX facilities

**Warm welcome to all**

### HAYDON BRIDGE UNITED ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

**HBUAFC** hold their monthly meeting on the first  
Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm in the Lounge of  
the *Railway Hotel* where representatives of every  
football team in the village are invited to attend.

This meeting is also open to members of the public.

### NEED HELP WITH

Tax Returns, Accounts, Book-keeping etc ?

Ring

**BASSETT HERRON & CO.**

Chartered Accountants

3, Market Street, Hexham

**Tel: 01 434 605 666**

**We Can Help YOU**

### Committee of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge'

Charles Thomas ( Chairman )

Mike Parkin ( Vice Chairman )

Elena Parkin

Alistair Bowen

'Mitch' Mitchell

Pauline Tulip

Sylvia Mitchell

Richard Snowdon

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHOPS. THEY NEED OUR CUSTOM TO SURVIVE.**

# HAYDONIAN SOCIAL CLUB

HELP SAVE YOUR CLUB, THIS COULD  
BE YOUR LAST CHANCE

July 2001 - Newsletter

A Social Club for Everyone  
A CIU affiliated Club

## Help Save Your Club - It belongs in the Community Current trading gives club 3 month lifeline to survive

At present trading levels the club only has sufficient cash flow to survive a maximum of 3 to 4 months. Now is the time to support the club if wish to it survive.

The current committee saved the club from closure back in October 1999. Over £25,000 debt has been repaid but the club debt still remains at over £50,000. Current trading at the club over the past couple of months has resulted in the clubs cash flow becoming more critical and without the support of the village the committee may have no choice but to put the club into voluntary liquidation.

Does this mean the village may lose the community asset that they own? In reality the brewery will probably try to sell the club premises to a developer.

Would any members or new members be liable for any of the current debt? Despite the rumours no members would be liable for any of the current debt. The property value exceeds the debt by twice the amount. Should the club fail in its efforts to get the valuable support from the community it would be a great shame for everyone.

The club do provide an important facility for many people. The aim of the club is to provide a community asset that everyone owns. With their support the club would be able to reinvest into the local community by reinvesting most of the profits to local groups who use the premises and not for profits for the any manager or owner.

There are many residents who would miss the club should it

close and there will be many people who will say they didn't realise trade was so poor. If you really do want a club now is the time to act.

### DONATION THANK YOU

The committee would like to thank the accordion/music night who held a raffle on Tuesday 5th June and raised £87 which was kindly donated to help the club.

### FREE DISCO

The club can now provide members with a free disco for private functions in the concert room. This is a big saving of up to £150 and you don't have to worry about finding a good DJ.

All we ask in return for the booking is for the person to join the club costing £2.

### A PERSONALISED BONUS

As a special thank you the club will also provide you with personalised invitations for your guests.

### MEMBERS

Every committee meeting is open to all members. Simply turn up any Wednesday for 7pm.

New committee members are always welcome as well as volunteers who can spare time to assist anyway possible.

### FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Your club can also assist with fundraising events for local groups. We could possibly provide a free disco and now provide Quiz Nights with Quiz

Master . Give Paul a ring on 07884 003 715 to discuss your fundraising ideas.

### MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

As at 29/09/00 = 381

As at 01/06/01 = 302

Application forms are behind the bar. Anyone over 18 welcome to join.

### WHAT'S ON IN JULY

#### SAT 14th JULY - FAMILY PRIZE BINGO - START 7.30pm

Will Friday 13th be lucky for you. A fun night for everyone. All donations are welcome for prizes on the night. All proceeds from the evening to help save the club. Your support really would be appreciated. There will also be a fun picture quiz during the evening.

#### SAT 21st JULY - FAMILY FUN QUIZ NIGHT - START 7.30pm

A fun night for all the family. A Fun Quiz with questions for all ages on Music, TV, Sport, General Knowledge, Films, plus picture quizzes and many more. All proceeds in aid of Marie Curie Cancer.

#### SAT 28th JULY

#### 60s: 70s DISCO NIGHT

#### Start 8pm - Entrance £2

Put on those flares and 70s outfits and have a great night. All music will be 60s and 70s. Strictly over 18s. (ID may be required)

#### THE ZONE

Under 18s Dance Club held every fortnight on a Friday and are alcohol free. For further information please contact Phil on 688272.

Can you donate anytime to help the running of the club? Please let us know as we are always looking for new volunteers. Contact any member of the committee.

**Benefits of your club for only £2 per year. Join today.**

Club prices on all drinks	£
35ml measures on spirits	7p
Bingo donated jackpot £100	1
Bandit Jackpot £200 & £100	7p
Free Pool every Tuesday & Thursday	3
Free disco & top DJ for private functions catering for all music tastes.	1p
Special bonus of personalised invitations if required for all functions.	5
Key draw—weekly cash draw for £50 plus jackpot starting from £500 and increasing each week until won. Drawn every Sunday. At 10pm. Tickets on sale up to 9.45pm in the bar.	5p
Sky Television	1p
Free children's discos every year at Easter, Halloween And Christmas	1p
Bingo every Wednesday and Sunday evening - eyes down at 8.30pm	7p

**WHIST DRIVES**

Langley Village Hall

POSTPONED  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE  
DUE TO F&M CRISIS

**Solution to crossword (11)**

Six (6) entries were received by the closing date.

Sadly, one was not quite correct!

Correct entries were from:

**Maureen Robson**  
**Mrs A Scott**  
**Dennis Telford**  
**D. W. Corbett**  
**Denis Bell**

**TINY TOTS***From Birth to 3 years.*

The sessions, run on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 9.30 to 11.30 at St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, aim to provide a friendly environment where parents / carers can meet, have a coffee and chat, whilst the children play and have fun.

**Cost:** £1 for the first child, 50p for each additional child.

For further information contact

Genevieve Stone on: **01 434 684 537** or call in at one of the sessions.

**PLAYGROUP***From 2 years 6 months*

Playgroup currently runs on Monday and Friday mornings from 9.15 to 11.45. Each session provides your child with the opportunity to learn through play and to experience a wide range of activities. Children learn, through play, to communicate effectively and happily, at their own pace, with other children and adults. Playgroup is run by a qualified Nursery Nurse Teacher plus assistants.

**Cost:** £3 per session.

For further information contact Helen Easby on: **01 434 674 371** or call in at one of the sessions.

St Cuthbert's Playgroup is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.



£10 winner out of the hat:  
**MRS A SCOTT**

	N	E	W	Y	O	R	K	T	I	M	E	S
T	E	H	B	U	N	V						
H	U	R	A	S	D	I	C	T	I	O	N	
E	V	L	E	O	A	C	A					
S	C	O	O	T	E	R	S	O	M	E	T	A
P	U	O	V	A	R							
E	S	S	E	N	A	P	P	E	N	N	I	N
C					N	A						W
T	I	T	I	V	A	T	E	S	S	T	O	R
A	U	E					T	E	S			I
T	I	N	D	R	U	M	L	O	N	G	T	O
O	I	Y	E	U	D	R						D
R	A	S	P	I	N	G	N	E	G	L	I	G
	I	L	A	C	U	C						D
B	A	L	L	Y	N	A	H	I	N	C	H	

**EDITORIAL POLICY OF THE HAYDON NEWS**

The editorial policy of the *Haydon News* is ultimately the responsibility of the Committee of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge', although day-to-day responsibility is delegated to the Editorial Committee of the *Haydon News*. Our intention is always to ensure that the content of the *Haydon News* is as fair and factually correct as possible. Any complaints concerning editorial policy should be addressed in writing to the Chairman of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge', and will be considered by and receive a formal response from the Committee of the 'Friends of Haydon Bridge'. Complaints other than those made above will not be entertained.

The Editorial Committee reserves the right to decide which letters are to be published, and to alter or shorten letters when necessary. Anonymous letters will NOT be published. A nom-de-plume may be used provided that the Editorial Committee has been advised of the writer's name and address.

**Charles Thomas, (Chairman)**  
**South View, Heugh House Lane,**  
**Haydon Bridge, NE47 6ND**

**COPY DEADLINE:** All contributions to the *Haydon News* to reach the Editor no later than Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

# CHURCH PAGE

June / July 2001

## CLERGY MESSAGE

*Rev David Perkins Haydon Bridge's Methodist Minister*

In chapter 8 of his gospel, Luke the Physician tells us the story of Jairus and his sick daughter. Jairus is a pillar of the local community, an elder of the synagogue, part of a group which had been hostile to Jesus and His message. That is, until Jairus needs a favour – a miracle actually. His daughter is at the point of death and he begs Jesus to come to her aid. Jesus agrees, and the crowd press round them as they make their way to Jairus' home. No one wants to miss this!

Without warning, Jesus stops and asks who has touched him. Silly question, thought the disciples, 'everyone pushing and shoving, and He wants to know who touched Him' Jesus looks around the faces of the crowd, and then suddenly a woman falls on the floor ahead of Him. Luke tells us that the woman then relates her whole medical history, how she had been to every physician, tried every cure, spent all her money, but all to no avail. She speaks of touching the hem of His garment, and immediately felt that she was cured of her ailment.

Jairus? What was he thinking when Jesus asks the 'silly' question? What was he thinking when no-one would own up to having touched the Master? What was he thinking when she goes on to tell her whole story? So much wasted time when his daughter lies dying. Two servants arrive from Jairus' home. 'Do not bother the Teacher any more; your daughter is dead.' All those delays, all those interruptions, all those silly questions. Jesus then turns to Jairus: 'Go on believing.' Literally, 'hang in there'. Jairus says nothing. The story has a happy ending. They get to the home, Jesus throws out the noisy mourners, and with a gentle whisper raises the girl to life. They are understandably gob-smacked. He tells them to give her something to eat.

Nice story, but what's the point?

In the crises of life we cannot expect to go up a gear in faith. You can only exercise the faith you have. Jesus does not ask Jairus to move up from a belief in healing to one of resurrection. Instead, He asks Jairus to continue in the faith he showed at first. A small faith focused in Christ is far better than a great deal of faith in our own capacity to cope.

The whole episode with the woman, at the time, appeared to be an unwelcome delay in Jairus' agenda. What it did was to show Jairus that faith works, even the kind of faith that would steal a blessing. To see a woman find healing in such a way after years of despair, should have given him hope, even when it couldn't get any darker for him.

The gentleness and ease with which Jesus confronts death is very helpful; for, if Christ be God, it reveals how death is seen and dealt with from the Divine perspective. (Jesus actually says the girl is sleeping!) With a quiet whisper and with a gentle hand, Christ restores the life that is precious. When death has done its job, its worst, it is God who will have the last word, and no doubt it will be a gentle one!

## AN INDEPENDENT SUPPLEMENT TO THE HAYDON NEWS



### CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN HAYDON BRIDGE

#### WHO AND WHERE

The names and phone numbers of the clergy who minister in Haydon Bridge

Rev David Perkins, with the Methodist congregation  
39 Elvaston Road, Hexham 603.139

Father Leo Pyle, with St John's Catholic Church  
St John's Presbytery, North Bank 684.265

Canon Vincent Ashwin, with St Cuthbert's C of E  
The Vicarage, Station Yard 684.307



### SCRIPTURE UNION HOLIDAY CLUB

Haydon Bridge's churches have again got together this year to invite the Scripture Union to run a children's holiday club. The leader will be Simon Brown from Coventry, with his wife Tommy (and, since last year, joined by their new baby Anna). Members of their church in the West Midlands will join the 15 or 20 helpers from Haydon Bridge.

The whole team are invited to St John's Roman Catholic Church at 9.30am on Sunday July 22<sup>nd</sup>, and then to the Methodist (10.00) or Anglican (10.30) church for the rest of the Dedication. Monday to Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, will be the actual days of the Club. Children (nobody under school age, please) will assemble outside St Cuthbert's on Church Street at 10.00 for the "bandstand", and then go to the three church halls for the different age-groups.

Details will be distributed at Shaftoe Trust First School, and in the local churches, during July.



## METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

### Sunday July 1st

10.00am Mrs M Weatherson  
6.00pm Rev G Hall

### Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup>

10.00am Rev David Perkins (Family S)  
6.00pm Mrs D Mallett

Wed. 11<sup>th</sup> Women's Own: Mrs S Hall

### Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup>

10.00am Mr Patrick Eavis  
4.30pm Circuit Picnic and Service

### July 22<sup>nd</sup>

10.00am Rev David Perkins  
6.00pm Mrs B Mearns

### July 29<sup>th</sup>

10.30am United Service outside St  
Cuthbert's (end of Holiday  
Club)  
6.00pm Rev David Perkins (Sacrament)

Congratulations to the Methodists for an excellent Flower Festival. It represented a huge amount of work, and showed great skill from a large number of people. Village groups like the Nature Club took part, as well as individuals from all churches and none,

Midges and Poetry featured at Haydon Old Church at the latest ecumenical service in the village. 30 people attended the 800 year-old church for the service on the evening of Trinity. On a fine sunny evening, the midges were out in force in the churchyard, - which still looked surprisingly tidy after last autumn's working party. Readings included poetry by Gerard Manley Hopkins and George Herbert, and the item in column three.

This month's inter-church activity is the Holiday Club (See over the page). The concluding service will be outside St Cuthbert's, in the same site as the daily 'bandstand'. Music at this service, on Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am, will be led by Simon Brown on the guitar, and other instrumentalists. The music will make your toes tap and your hearts sing.

Cancel World Debt was the theme of a march in Hexham last month, organized by Christians in Hexham's churches. The march drew attention to the continuing debt owed by the poorest countries to the richest - debts so great that it is impossible for those countries to build schools and pay teachers. This makes the gap between rich and poor countries even wider.

## CALENDAR FOR ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH

### July 1<sup>st</sup> Trinity 3

8.00am Holy Communion (traditional)  
10.30am All-Age Service of the Word  
6.00pm Evensong, Haydon Old Church

Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> 7pm Holy Communion

7.30pm Church Council meets

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Christians Together/ HB

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Summer Fete.

### July 8<sup>th</sup> Trinity 4

10.30am Parish Communion & Sermon

### July 15<sup>th</sup> 5th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (traditional)  
10.30am Morning Prayer & sermon  
6.30pm Deanery Evensong, Whitley Ch.

### July 22<sup>nd</sup> St Mary Magdalene

Dedication / Holiday Club team  
10.30am Parish Communion & sermon

July 23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> Children's Holiday Club

Wed. 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Mothers' Union

### July 29<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

10.15am Benefice Communion, Belt'ham  
10.30am Holiday Club closing service.

## Local Anglican news

The Revd Roger Cutler is to be licensed as priest-in-charge to two local parishes this month. At 7.30pm on July 19<sup>th</sup>, the Bishop of Newcastle will license him at St Peter's Newbrough. The following evening, he will be licensed as priest-in-charge of St John Lee, the church in the parish of Acomb. Warden with Newbrough has been cared for by the Revd Christopher Elliot-Newman for 18 months. St John Lee has had a vacancy for well over a year. We send best wishes to Roger Cutler and his wife Liz as they move to Northumberland.

## Dagmar's Lectures

Three lectures about recent research into Jesus and his life were given at Haydon Bridge last month. The Revd Dagmar Winter, Deanery training officer, passed on to the 25 people who attended some of the research done for her Ph.D degree. Dagmar is known to the readers of the Hexham Courant as a dog-owner and marathon-runner. She completed the London Marathon this year, raising funds for a missionary couple working in a hospital in India, Debbie and Hugh Skeil, doctor and accountant. The radical content of her talks stirred plenty of discussion over the tea that followed each session.

## SERVICES AT ST JOHN OF BEVERLEY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass each Sunday at 9.30am.

Mass at 11.0 at Haltwhistle each Sunday.

Mass on weekdays (except Mondays), at 10.00am, either at St John's or at Haltwhistle.

## The Spirit of a Little Child

*At an inter-church service at Haydon Old Church on Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup>, members of different congregations chose poems and other readings about ways to approach God. This is one of them (though we don't know who originally said or wrote these words)*

Our religion is one which challenges the ordinary human standard, by holding that the ideal of life is the spirit of the little child. We tend to glorify adulthood and wisdom and worldly prudence. But the Gospel reverses all this; the Gospel says that the condition of entrance into the divine fellowship is that we turn and become as a little child. Against our natural judgement we must become tender and full of wonder, and unspoiled by the hard skepticism on which we so often pride ourselves. But when we really look into the heart of a child, wilful as he or she may be, we are shown that God has sent children into the world, not only to replenish us, but to serve as sacred ministers of something precious, which we are always in danger of losing.



Gift Day for St Cuthbert's  
Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup>, 10.00-12.00  
Summer Fete in the Old Vicarage  
Garden from 2.00pm, July 7<sup>th</sup>

## Verses from Psalm 8

- 1 O Lord our governor, how glorious is your name in all the world!
- 2 Your majesty above the heavens is praised; out of the mouths of babes at the breast.

## Fat Primates Resign Over Bidet

### CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHELLE

- Michelle and Andrew have their new baby, Benjamin James who, at 8lbs 14oz, is only a feather's weight less than Michelle herself. In mid September Michelle will be returning to work but half instead of three quarter time.

### WELCOME TO GAIL

We have a new partner who will be joining us half time in mid September. Her name is Gail Young. She lives in Fenham and presently holds several jobs including assistant at a Walker practice, counsellor at Morpeth and Joint Coordinator of Mentoring at Newcastle University. She has had wide experience in and around general practice, she has two children and her husband is Professor of Community based Medical Education at Newcastle University Medical School. She brings a variety of new skills to the practice. I am confident that we shall see some good developments with her aboard.

### HOW RED IS YOUR BLOOD?

For decades it has been blandly assumed that women in their child bearing years are to be expected to have less red stuff in their circulation than men. Laboratories everywhere quote normal haemoglobin (the red stuff) levels separately for men and women. Now it has been realised that most menstruating women are in fact permanently slightly iron deficient because of their monthly loss which is not adequately compensated for by their diets. 90% of UK women do not have enough iron in their diet (minimum 14.8mg daily) so no wonder, when the averages are calculated, women have lower values - being anaemic they are not normal or representative at all.

Confirmation of this comes from studies of other members of our zoological group, the primates. There are two groups of primates to be considered in this regard; those who menstruate (old world monkeys, apes and humans) and those who do not (lemurs, lorises, bushbabies, marmosets, tamarins and new world monkeys). The former show statistically significantly lower levels of haemoglobin in females whilst the latter do not.

Taking sufficient iron in the diet is only part of the equation though. There are parts of our diets that actually prevent us absorbing whatever iron is there in the first place. Namely, dairy products, cereals and tannins.

In summary, it would appear a reasonable precaution for all women between puberty and menopause either to pay very special attention to maximising the iron in the diets or to take a simple iron supplement, such as ferrous sulphate, most of the time. Foods containing iron include; meat and especially offals, fruit and vegetables. Green leafy vegetables, in particular water cress, are especially good. BEWARE!; a child overdosing on iron tablets may be in great danger.

### DRUGS FOR TREATING OBESITY

Everyone wants a quick fix for obesity but nobody is prepared to do the simplest thing which is to eat sufficiently little to achieve the same effect. I am as guilty in this respect as the next person - please God make me virtuous but not just yet! Now that there are more obese people than ever, the demand is growing for effective medication and the pharmaceutical industry is investing hugely in the project. There have been products sold for decades but they are usually amphetamine like substances with significant risks attached to their use.

Orlistat blocks the absorption of fat from the gut. The idea being that most of our calories are in the fat in our diets. The drug works well and produces splendidly fatty diarrhoea - "like farting olive oil" as a matron of a neighbouring parish, a lady of impeccable refinement and discretion, recently observed to me. I have heard cynics suggesting that its main mode of action is to make the patient too terrified to eat. Some patients, in fairness, have lost weight with it but the question then becomes - can the loss be maintained? Not often is the answer.

Another recent introduction is sibutramine which is said to act on the central nervous system and increase energy expenditure. It has been shown to have the added advantage of helping to maintain the weight loss achieved in the long term.

Obesity is a complex phenomenon. There are physical, psychological, social, environmental and genetic factors all intertwined. There are many products in the labs now which exploit different mechanisms of action and which will be available in the coming years. The simple, central, unavoidable fact, in otherwise healthy people, is that if you eat sufficiently little, you will lose weight. The process will be greatly aided by increasing physical activity, which has health benefits in itself. The only factor definitely known to prolong life is UNDERnutrition.

### WOT? NO DOCTORS?

Everyone I've spoken to has sent in their ballot form saying they are prepared to resign over contractual issues. On the other hand almost everyone thinks that the broad thrust of government health policy is about right. What a sad situation. I would be amazed if it were not resolved in time. So don't panic!

### PARLIAMENTARY FOOTNOTE with added name dropping.

In the late 1970s I was houseman to Dr. Richard Taylor in Kidderminster, the retired hospital consultant who has just been elected to Parliament. He's a real gentleman, in the original sense of the word. I have written to him to wish him well. It will be fascinating to see if he achieves his stated aims. Peter Atkinson's bacon may just have been saved by the arrival of the new Hexham hospital.

### FOG IN CHANNEL - CONTINENT ISOLATED!

The cultural gulf between the British and our neighbours across the channel is nicely illustrated by our attitude to the bidet - nobody knows what its for but it adds a touch of class (or it's two days before D-day). However, the continentals may have several centuries lead on us with regard to the importance of intimate hygiene. Alas, the cultural significance of the armed force's and austerity era mantra of "one up, one down and one to polish" may be lost on a generation who have no memory of the gloriously abrasive qualities of Izal Medicated.

The Romans, with whom this part of the UK is strongly associated, used moistened sponges to clean themselves. Françoise Rabelais (circa 1490 - 1553) is chiefly remembered for his great work Gargantua and Pantagruel, wherein, amongst much else besides, he catalogues in earthy detail the route by which Gargantua arrived at a decision regarding "the world's most incomparable torchecul, arsewisp, bumfodder, tail napkin, bung-hole cleanser or wipe-breech." He works his way through many luxury fabrics, items of clothing - belonging to others, several types of domestic soft furnishings of the period, a number of domestic and farmyard animals, numerous plants, hay, thatching, flax, wool, paper, an attorney's bag, a cormorant and a falconer's lure. He eventually alights on a well downed goose's neck, he notes especially its warmth and softness.

The foregoing cultural *divertissement* being a prelude to a short homily on the means by which that oh-so-common malady, a sore and/or itchy bottom, may be avoided. The skin around the anus and genitals needs to be gently and thoroughly cleaned regularly with mild unperfumed soap and water, the soap being carefully washed off afterwards too. Careful drying is equally important, even using a hair dryer for total dryness when the skin is causing trouble. When skin has a residue of faeces or urine on it, soreness will always occur. Sweat will also soften and weaken the skin. Garments that prevent the circulation of air (corsetry, tights, trousers and anything closefitting in manmade fibre) are sure recipe for trouble. Do not use talc, 'intimate' deodorants, disinfectants, anything with perfume in it (like bubble bath) or creams with local anaesthetics in them.

Other causes for itch are haemorrhoids, thread worms, skin disease such as eczema or psoriasis, skin changes after the menopause, sensitivity to chemicals applied in creams or bubble baths etc., thrush and, of course, anxiety. The latter problem has been referred to in the past by the splendid acronym YETAS - young executive tight arse syndrome.

### PHONE MUDDLE

In Haydon Bridge we have 684 and 688 prefixes on the old three figure numbers. One or two people have been adding 684 to our prescription only line. So the owner of 684688 is getting a little vexed. The number for PRESCRIPTIONS ONLY is 688351 - just that. The number appears on all prescription counterfoils so it should be easy to recall. Steve Ford